

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-615**

12 September 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

**Please provide the following information for each calendar year from 2018 to the present (2023):**

**What was the longest a patient at your healthcare facility waited (in weeks/days) for -**

**a) a first consultation with a radiation oncologist, following a referral for radiotherapy treatment;**

Our systems do not capture this information; however, we can advise that current waiting times for New Patient appointments across our specialities is currently on average 2 to 4 weeks depending on tumour site.

**b) the initiation of radiotherapy treatment, following the initial consultation with a radiation oncologist;**

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link on the NHS England website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/monthly-prov-cwt/2023-24-monthly-provider-cancer-waiting-times-statistics/provider-based-cancer-waiting-times-for-april-2023-24-provisional/>

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

**c) a scheduled radiotherapy session, following the initiation of radiotherapy treatment;**

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link on the NHS England website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/monthly-prov-cwt/2023-24-monthly-provider-cancer-waiting-times-statistics/provider-based-cancer-waiting-times-for-april-2023-24-provisional/>

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

d) a diagnostic test or procedure related to radiotherapy planning, following the referral from a radiation oncologist.

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link on the NHS England website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/cancer-waiting-times/monthly-prov-cwt/2023-24-monthly-provider-cancer-waiting-times-statistics/provider-based-cancer-waiting-times-for-april-2023-24-provisional/>

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

### **The number of unresolved radiotherapy referrals**

We have 101 patients on our list waiting to start radiotherapy, all but 21 patients have a Planning CT Scan booked.

### **and the longest length of time the referral has been pending.**

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**